



City of Sandy Springs

Leading the Way to Sustainability

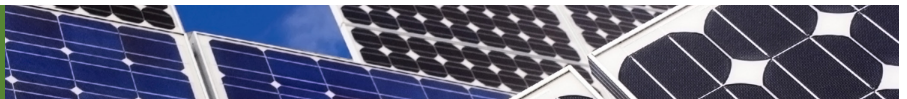
In 2014, the City of Sandy Springs achieved Bronze level certification under the Atlanta Regional Commission's Green Communities Program. The following measures have been implemented by the City of Sandy Springs to reduce its environmental impact and promote sustainability. These measures received points for certification.

Energy Efficiency



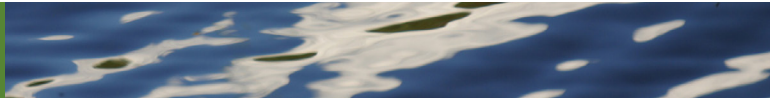
- » Performed energy audits on all city-owned facilities. Performed audits on leased facilities and is working with landlords to retrofit. Plans to conduct energy audits every four years, as technologies improve.
- » Joined the Energy Star partnership in 2014. Measures and tracks energy usage within its facilities through energy audits.
- » Retrofitted all of its traffic signals and pedestrian signal heads with energy-saving LED signal inserts.
- » Adopted a lights out/power down policy requiring employees and maintenance staff to turn off lights and all other non-essential electronic equipment when not in use.
- » Installed Energy Star rated cool roofs on the city hall, police, and Trowbridge Warehouse buildings. Visitors to City Hall are educated about its cool roof via reception area signage.
- » Completed a \$79,000 green initiative project on the city hall building. Replaced more than 700 T12 florescent light fixtures and magnetic ballasts with LED bulbs and 32 exit light fixtures with LED fixtures. LEDs, combined with the installation of occupancy sensors, are projected to save 340,204 kWh of electricity annually.

Green Power



- » Harnesses solar energy on two city fire stations to heat hot water. Natural gas usage at the fire stations has decreased 27 percent, resulting in \$23,158 in cost savings over the first two years.

Water Efficiency



- » Conducted water audits on all city-owned facilities. Performed audits on leased facilities and is working with landlords to retrofit. Plans to conduct water audits every four years, as technologies improve.
- » Captures rainwater in a 9,200 gallon cistern at Hammond Park for irrigation of plantings as well as supplying extra water for other city watering needs.
- » Completed an audit with the Georgia Environmental Protection Division and is in compliance with the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District's Water Supply and Water Conservation Management Plan, Wastewater Management Plan and Watershed Management Plan.

Trees & Greenspace



- » Designated as a Tree City USA Community for the past five years. To maintain this designation, the city has a Tree Commission, a community tree ordinance, a community forestry program with an annual budget of at least \$2 per capita and an annual Arbor Day observance and proclamation.
- » Donated space and built 60 raised beds for community gardeners at Lost Corner Preserve. The city also installed a deer fence and supplies harvested water for garden use.
- » Provides the location, parking, and publicity assistance for the Heritage Sandy Springs Farmers Market, held Saturday mornings from April through October.

Transportation & Air Quality



- » Gives preference for purchasing fuel-efficient and lowest emission vehicles, including but not limited to alternative fueled and hybrid vehicles via its Green Fleet policy. Currently, Sandy Springs has 68 hybrid vehicles that use both propane and gasoline.
- » Adopted an anti-idling policy to prevent city vehicles from idling more than 30 seconds unless in traffic or on routine stops.
- » Built a 2,000 gallon propane autogas fueling station for the city fleet. A second fueling station of the same size is planned. Currently, 68 vehicles have been converted to use both propane and gasoline, with a fleet average of 93 percent propane usage. An additional 18 vehicles are scheduled for conversion.
- » Developed an Intelligent Transportation System Plan in 2007 to direct implementation of signals, fiber optic cable, and communication devices to improve overall transportation system management. All major traffic signal corridors within the city and the Perimeter Community Improvement District have active fiber and communication devices. On State Route 9 alone, travel time has decreased by more than 25 percent.

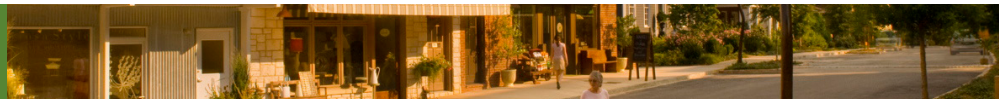
- » Undertaken both policies and programs to promote and enhance alternative mode routes, access, and safety around public and private schools in support of the Safe Routes to School program. A major focus of the city's sidewalk capital improvement program has been on providing sidewalk connections to schools. Traffic safety around public schools is supported through the installation of school zones and beacons as well as radar speed feedback signs. The city also partners with schools to celebrate Georgia Walk to School Day.
- » Provides bicycle parking at all city-owned facilities that are accessed by the public, including City Hall and city-owned parks. Also adopted a development ordinance to require bicycle parking within the city's Main Street and Suburban Overlay districts.
- » Initiated the development of a citywide Bicycle, Pedestrian and Trail Plan in fall 2013. The city's bike and pedestrian policies are also guided by its Transportation Master Plan and Sidewalk Improvement Program. The city has invested more than \$8 million in the last five years to build new sidewalks. It also recently opened the Abernathy Greenway multiuse trail.
- » Encourages shared parking where principal uses will not utilize space during the same hours. Allows for a parking reduction in areas near MARTA stations. Sets a parking maximum for the Main Street District to encourage better walkability.
- » Revised its zoning ordinance in 2013 in order to require all new developments to install electric vehicle charging stations. Developers are now required to install one electrical charging station for every 100 spaces, and at least one station per parking lot, if under 100 spaces.

Recycling & Waste Reduction



- » Provides locations throughout City Hall for employees and visitors to recycle office paper, cans, plastic bottles, cardboard, and pens.
- » Collects electronics, batteries, and printer cartridges from employees for recycling.
- » Contracts with Keep North Fulton Beautiful to run the Sandy Springs Recycling Center. Residents may recycle electronics, cell phones, batteries, and other items.
- » Holds an annual household hazardous waste collection day for residents to properly dispose of items like paints, solvents, stains, cleaning products, pool & spa chemicals, and pesticides.

Land Use



- » Encourages smart growth development via the Sandy Springs Town Center Livable Centers Initiative (LCI) plan and Roswell Road Corridor LCI plan.
- » Incentivizes redevelopment via an Opportunity Zone program focused on the area around I-285 at Roswell Road. Businesses locating within the area are eligible to apply for a tax credit of \$3,500 per net new job created against the company's state income tax liability.

Innovation



- » Provides educational information to employees on the city's sustainability efforts through signage, Green Community email newsletter, and the city's website.
- » Shares information about the city's sustainability initiatives with the community through the Sandy Springs E-newsletter, city website, building signage, and press releases.

For more information on all the certified communities, visit the Certified Green Communities webpage at <http://atlantaregional.com/environment/green-communities>.